GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1538
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2007
LINE OF CONTROL
Nikhil Kumar Shri ;Pradhan Shri Dharmendra;Rijiju Shri Kiren;Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to treat the Line of Control in Jammu & Kashmir as the Line of Peace;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has discussed the proposal with the Pakistan Government;

(d) if so, the response of Pakistan Government thereto; and

(e) the current status of the talks held on the issue?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a)-(e) Prime Minister during his convocation address at the University of Jammu on 15 July 2007 had inter alia, stated that the Line of Control (LOC) can become a line of peace with freer flow of ideas, goods, services and people. A number of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) are being implemented to achieve freer flow of ideas, goods, services and people across the border. These are
(i) Ceasefire since 25 November 2003,
(ii) the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service (started on 7 April 2005),
(iii) LOC crossing and meeting points opened after the October 2005 earthquake,
(iv) the Poonch-Rawalakot bus service (started on 20 June 2006), and
(v) Agreement on cross LOC trade.

Measures to expand such CBMs are also being pursued and Government have already proposed to the Government of Pakistan that the Kargil-Skardu and the Jammu-Sialkot routes should be opened.